

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**Hearing on H.R. 6, the “Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act**  
**March 25, 2014**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Three weeks ago, the House overwhelmingly passed a billion dollar loan guarantee aid package for Ukraine, and today the House Foreign Affairs committee is marking up another package of support as Russia’s aggression continues. In this committee, we begin debate on a bill that would help not only Ukraine, but every Eastern and Central European country, as well as other allies in Asia and around the world who are dependent upon on Russian natural gas. Although passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, certainly won’t turn on the spigot of American gas to Ukrainian or Hungarian homes overnight, it will send a clear and powerful signal. The U.S. will be well positioned as a global energy superpower. We have the resources, the expertise, and the technology to deliver growing amounts of our domestic energy bounty to the market in the years and decades to come. Increasing exports would also result in the flow of billions of dollars into the U.S. economy. We truly can do well and do good with this bill.

The committee has an extensive record on the issue of LNG exports, including multiple hearings, an international forum, and a comprehensive report. With continued technological innovation and access to production, a diverse electricity portfolio that keeps all fuel sources in the mix, and a commitment to new infrastructure to get surging supplies to needed areas of demand, America has the ability to deliver a natural gas supply well in excess of domestic needs. By putting our extra natural gas capacity to use by entering the global market, the U.S. can supplant the influence of other exporters like Russia while strengthening ties with our allies and trading partners around the world.

U.S. LNG would fight back against Russia in two ways. First, by providing more natural gas to the global market, it would reduce the price Russia can get away with charging. And second, by providing our allies in Europe with an independent source of natural gas, it would limit Russia’s political leverage over these nations. It is highly unlikely that the current crisis in Ukraine will be the last time Putin tries to bully a neighboring country.

While the geopolitical benefits of LNG exports are substantial, the economic benefits alone should make H.R. 6 a no-brainer. Free trade strengthens the U.S. economy, and natural gas exports are no exception.

H.R. 6 is a net jobs creator, including the jobs constructing and running the LNG export facilities as well as the additional energy industry jobs as natural gas producers expand their output to meet the increase in demand. These benefits are on top of the indirect jobs created as the billions in export revenues work their way through the economy.

Overall, U.S. natural gas exports truly offer a win-win scenario. The U.S. has the chance to sell a product we have in abundance and other nations need, and at the same time provide a lifeline to our allies in that region for many years to come. I look forward to working with Cory Gardner and all of my colleagues to see H.R. 6 become law. Thank you.

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